

# California Field Crop Review



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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Wheat Forecast — 2005 Cotton Revisions ..... | 1 |
| Field Crop Prices .....                      | 2 |
| Spring Potatoes — Fall Potato Stocks .....   | 3 |
| Hay Stocks .....                             | 4 |

California's Durum wheat production is forecast at 171 thousand tons, down 13 percent from 2005. Acreage expected for harvest, at 60 thousand, is 13 percent below last year's acreage. The expected yield of 2.85 tons per acre remained the same as the previous year.

## WHEAT FORECAST

California farmers are expected to produce 396 thousand tons of winter wheat in 2006, 39 percent below last year. The 220 thousand acres expected to be harvested for grain are 27 percent below last year. The yield is expected to average 1.80 tons per acre, 17 percent below last year.

United States winter wheat production is forecast to be 39.7 million tons, 12 percent below 2005. Based on conditions as of May 1, the U.S. yield is expected to average 1.27 tons, 5 percent below May 2005. Harvested acreage was estimated at 31.2 million acres, 8 percent below last season.

The U.S. Durum wheat production estimates for states other than Arizona and California will not be available until July 12, 2006.

## WHEAT FORECAST

| Crop and Location        | Area Harvested |        | Yield |      | Production |        |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|------|------------|--------|
|                          | 2005           | 2006   | 2005  | 2006 | 2005       | 2006   |
|                          | 1,000 Acres    |        | Tons  |      | 1,000 Tons |        |
| <b>WINTER</b> California | 300            | 220    | 2.16  | 1.80 | 648        | 396    |
| UNITED STATES            | 33,794         | 31,177 | 1.33  | 1.27 | 44,974     | 39,685 |
| <b>DURUM</b> California  | 69             | 60     | 2.85  | 2.85 | 197        | 171    |
| Arizona                  | 79             | 70     | 3.00  | 3.00 | 237        | 210    |
| UNITED STATES            | 2,716          | a/     | 1.12  | b/   | 3,033      | b/     |

a/ Published June 30, 2006. b/ Published July 12, 2006.

## 2005 COTTON PRODUCTION

California farmers produced 1.07 million bales (480-lb. net weight) of Upland cotton in 2005, 41 percent less than the 1.79 million bales produced in 2004. Harvested acreage, at 428 thousand, was 23 percent below the 557 thousand harvested the previous year. The average yield was 1,194 pounds per acre, 349 pounds below 2004.

American-Pima production in California totaled 558 thousand bales, down 18 percent from the 683 thousand bales produced the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 229 thousand, was 7 percent above the 214 thousand harvested in 2004. The average yield was 1,170 pounds per acre, 362 pounds below the previous year.

All cotton production in the United States is estimated at a record high 23.9 million 480-pound bales, 3 percent above last year's record. The U.S. all cotton yield averaged 831 pounds per harvested acre, down 24 pounds from last year's record high yield.

The U.S. yield for Upland cotton is 825 pounds per acre, down 18 pounds from 2004. The Upland cotton production is estimated at 23.3 million 480-pound bales, the largest on record and 3 percent more than last year's production.

American-Pima production totaled 631 thousand bales, down 15 percent from 2004. The U.S. yield for American-Pima is 1,127 pounds per acre, down 316 pounds from 2004.

## COTTON AND COTTONSEED

| Commodity Item               | Unit                      | CALIFORNIA    |           | UNITED STATES |             |             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|                              |                           | 2004          | 2005 1/   | 2004          | 2005 1/     |             |
| <b>UPLAND COTTON:</b>        | Acres Planted             | 1,000 Acres   | 560.0     | 430.0         | 13,409.0    | 13,975.0    |
|                              | Acres Harvested           | 1,000 Acres   | 557.0     | 428.0         | 12,809.0    | 13,534.0    |
|                              | Yield                     | Lbs./Acre     | 1,543.0   | 1,194.0       | 843.0       | 825.0       |
|                              | Production 2/             | 1,000 Bales   | 1,790.0   | 1,065.0       | 22,505.1    | 23,259.7    |
|                              | Price 3/                  | Cents/Lb.     | 51.6      | 60.0          | 41.6        | 46.9        |
|                              | Value                     | 1,000 Dollars | 443,347.0 | 302,400.0     | 4,539,616.0 | 5,204,245.0 |
| <b>AMERICAN-PIMA COTTON:</b> | Acres Planted             | 1,000 Acres   | 215.0     | 230.0         | 249.6       | 270.4       |
|                              | Acres Harvested           | 1,000 Acres   | 214.0     | 229.0         | 248.0       | 268.6       |
|                              | Yield                     | Lbs./Acre     | 1,532.0   | 1,170.0       | 1,443.0     | 1,127.0     |
|                              | Production 2/             | 1,000 Bales   | 683.0     | 558.0         | 745.6       | 630.5       |
|                              | Price 3/                  | Cents/Lb.     | 88.2      | 119.0         | 87.8        | 118.0       |
|                              | Value                     | 1,000 Dollars | 289,155.0 | 331,296.0     | 314,114.0   | 369,874.0   |
| <b>COTTONSEED:</b>           | Production 4/             | 1,000 Tons    | 902.0     | 594.0         | 8,198.1     | 8,172.1     |
|                              | Sales to Oil Mills        | 1,000 Tons    | 116.0     | 83.0          | 4,501.5     | 4,588.8     |
|                              | Other Farm Disposition 5/ | 1,000 Tons    | 786.0     | 511.0         | 3,696.6     | 3,583.3     |
|                              | Used for Planting 6/      | 1,000 Tons    | 5.7       | 5.1           | 135.0       | 138.4       |
|                              | Price 3/ 4/               | Dollars/Ton   | 150.0     | 146.0         | 107.0       | 95.5        |
|                              | Value 5/                  | 1,000 Dollars | 135,300.0 | 85,848.0      | 877,372.0   | 808,598.0   |
| Value of Sales to Oil Mills  | 1,000 Dollars             | 17,400.0      | 12,118.0  | 481,660.5     | 438,230.4   |             |

1/ Revised 2005 data. 2/ Production ginned and to be ginned. 3/ Based on marketings and monthly prices received from August 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005. 4/ Revised 2004 data. 5/ Includes planting seed, feed, exports, inter-farm sales, shrinkage, losses, and other uses. 6/ Included in "other" farm disposition. Seed for planting is produced in crop year shown, but used in the following year.

**CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - APRIL 2006**

Mid-April prices received by California farmers increased from March for all potatoes, winter potatoes and Upland cotton lint. Prices for fall potatoes and alfalfa hay were below the previous month's level, while all hay and hay other than alfalfa remained unchanged. Mid-month prices for wheat and barley were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. There were insufficient sales to establish a mid-month price for oats and dry edible beans. Prices were above a year earlier for winter potatoes, all hay, and hay other than alfalfa. All potatoes, fall potatoes, and alfalfa hay were below April 2005.

**U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 115 based on 1990-92=100, increased one point (0.9 percent) from March. The Crop Index is up 11 points (9.3 percent), but the Livestock Index decreased six points (5.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and strawberries. Lower prices were received for broilers, cattle, eggs, and hogs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of strawberries, cattle, sweet corn, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hogs.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down six points (5.0 percent) from April 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 117, increased one point (0.9 percent) from last month, but decreased eight points (6.4 percent) from April 2005.

The April All Crops Index is 129, up 9.3 percent from March and 7.5 percent above April 2005. From March, index increases for commercial vegetables, cotton, potatoes & dry beans, food grains, and feed grains & hay more than offset an index decrease for oil-bearing crops.

The April Food Grains Index, at 128, is 3.2 percent above the previous month and 17 percent above a year ago. The April all wheat price, at \$130.00 per ton, is up \$3.67 from March and \$18.33 higher than April 2005.

The April Feed Grains & Hay Index is 101, up 3.1 percent from last month and 5.2 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$75.36 per ton, is up \$1.79 from last month and \$3.93 above April 2005. The all hay price, at \$106.00 per ton, increased \$8.90 from March and \$6.60 from last April. Grain sorghum, at \$3.53 per cwt., is unchanged March, but 57 cents higher than April last year.

The April Cotton Index, at 90, is up 8.4 percent from March and 32 percent above last year. The April price, at 54.3 cents per pound, is up 3.9 cents from the previous month and 12.9 cents higher than last April.

The April Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 143, is up 5.9 percent from last month and 28 percent above April 2005. The all potato price, at \$8.66 per cwt., is up 45 cents from March and \$2.46 from last April. The all dry bean price, at \$19.40 per cwt., is up \$2.30 from the previous month, but \$9.30 below April 2005.

**AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/**

| Commodity             | Unit | CALIFORNIA |            |               | UNITED STATES |            |               |
|-----------------------|------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
|                       |      | April 2005 | March 2006 | Apr. 15, 2006 | April 2005    | March 2006 | Apr. 15, 2006 |
| Dollars               |      |            |            |               |               |            |               |
| Corn 2/               | Ton  | ---        | ---        | ---           | 71.43         | 73.57      | 75.36         |
| Wheat 2/              | Ton  | 3/         | 121.00     | 3/            | 111.67        | 126.33     | 130.00        |
| Oats 2/               | Ton  | ---        | 4/         | 4/            | 103.13        | 113.13     | 107.50        |
| Barley 2/             | Ton  | 3/         | 3/         | 3/            | 94.17         | 112.92     | 111.25        |
| Sorghum Grain 2/      | Cwt. | ---        | ---        | ---           | 2.96          | 3.53       | 3.53          |
| Rice 2/               | Cwt. | ---        | ---        | ---           | 6.98          | 8.10       | 8.28          |
| Dry Edible Beans 2/   | Cwt. | 37.90      | 45.50      | 4/            | 28.70         | 17.10      | 19.40         |
| All Potatoes 5/       | Cwt. | 16.80      | 11.90      | 14.80         | 6.20          | 8.21       | 8.66          |
| Winter                | Cwt. | 21.40      | 21.00      | 22.30         | ---           | ---        | ---           |
| Spring                | Cwt. | ---        | ---        | ---           | ---           | ---        | ---           |
| Summer                | Cwt. | ---        | ---        | ---           | ---           | ---        | ---           |
| Fall                  | Cwt. | 8.00       | 8.15       | 6.65          | ---           | ---        | ---           |
| All Hay, Baled        | Ton  | 135.00     | 136.00     | 136.00        | 99.40         | 97.10      | 106.00        |
| Alfalfa Hay, Baled    | Ton  | 141.00     | 141.00     | 140.00        | 105.00        | 100.00     | 110.00        |
| Other Hay, Baled      | Ton  | 96.00      | 106.00     | 106.00        | 81.60         | 86.60      | 93.20         |
| Upland Cotton Lint 2/ | Lb.  | 3/         | 0.614      | 0.650         | 0.414         | 0.504      | 0.543         |
| Cottonseed            | Lb.  | ---        | ---        | ---           | ---           | ---        | ---           |

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure.

4/ Insufficient sales to establish a price.

5/ Monthly average.

**INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES**

| Index  | 1910-14 = 100 |            |            | 1990-92 = 100 |            |            |
|--|---------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|
|  | April 2005    | March 2006 | April 2006 | April 2005    | March 2006 | April 2006 |
| Prices Received - Unadjusted   |               |            |            |               |            |            |
| All Farm Products  | 770           | 721 1/     | 732        | 121           | 114 1/     | 115        |
| All Crops  | 592           | 581 1/     | 637        | 120           | 118 1/     | 129        |
| Food Grains  | 347           | 395 1/     | 406        | 109           | 124 1/     | 128        |
| Feed Grains and Hay  | 342           | 350 1/     | 363        | 96            | 98 1/      | 101        |
| Cotton   | 350           | 426 1/     | 459        | 68            | 83 1/      | 90         |
| Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans  | 566           | 683 1/     | 725        | 112           | 135 1/     | 143        |
| Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,<br>Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/ | 1,859         | 1,943 1/   | 1,954      | 140           | 146 1/     | 147        |
| Parity Ratio 3/  | 41            | 36 1/      | 34         | 86            | 78         | 78         |

1/ Revised.

2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.

3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

**SPRING POTATOES**

California's spring production is forecast at 6.26 million cwt., 9 percent above last month's forecast and up 2 percent from a year ago. Weather conditions have been wet and cool resulting in a slower developing crop. Growers are anticipating a late harvest because of the weather.

Nationally, the 2005 spring production is forecast at 20.6 million cwt., up 3 percent from the April forecast and 10 percent above last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 69.7 thousand acres, up 3 percent from the April estimate and 4 percent above last year. The average yield is forecast at 296 cwt. per acre, 2 cwt. above last month and up 15 cwt. from a year ago.

**SPRING POTATOES**

| State          | Area Harvested |      | Yield |      | Production |        |        |
|----------------|----------------|------|-------|------|------------|--------|--------|
|                | 2005           | 2006 | 2005  | 2006 | 2004       | 2005   | 2006   |
|                | 1,000 Acres    |      | Cwt.  |      | 1,000 Cwt. |        |        |
| Arizona        | 4.3            | 3.9  | 275   | 300  | 1,767      | 1,183  | 1,170  |
| California     | 15.1           | 14.9 | 405   | 420  | 8,313      | 6,116  | 6,258  |
| Florida        | 23.2           | 23.7 | 281   | 294  | 7,678      | 6,527  | 6,962  |
| Hastings       | 17.0           | 17.7 | 280   | 295  | 5,760      | 4,760  | 5,222  |
| Other          | 6.2            | 6.0  | 285   | 290  | 1,918      | 1,767  | 1,740  |
| North Carolina | 15.0           | 17.0 | 190   | 200  | 2,700      | 2,850  | 3,400  |
| Texas          | 9.1            | 10.2 | 225   | 280  | 2,205      | 2,048  | 2,856  |
| UNITED STATES  | 66.7           | 69.7 | 281   | 296  | 22,663     | 18,724 | 20,646 |

**MAY 1 FALL POTATO STOCKS**

California's fall potato stocks were estimated at 400 thousand cwt. as of May 1, 2006, 20 percent less than last year's holdings. Stocks represented 12 percent of the 2005 fall potato production, compared to 14 percent of the previous year.

The 13 major potato States held 73.0 million cwt. of potatoes in storage May 1, 2006, down 17 percent from last year and 14 percent below May 1, 2004 for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 20 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, 2 percent below last year.

Disappearance of 300 million cwt. from the start of harvest to May 1 is down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 23.2 million cwt., is down 21 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 150 million cwt. of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage, accounting for 30.8 million cwt. of the total processing, is 8 percent less than last year and 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

Comparisons by region will not be made in this narrative to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Comparisons for individual States are as follows. Idaho's potato stocks are down 22 percent from last year, while Maine's sheds held 8 percent less than last year, and Colorado's stocks dropped 28 percent from last season. Stocks in Wisconsin decreased 3 percent from 2005. North Dakota's potato stocks dropped 61 percent from last year, while Minnesota's stocks are 47 percent below last year, and California's potato sheds held 20 percent less than in 2005. Montana, Nebraska, and New York's potato stocks combined decreased 18 percent from last year. Michigan potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2005. Washington and Oregon are the only States where potato stocks have increased from the same date in 2005, with stocks up 10 percent and 28 percent, respectively.

**MAY 1 FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS 1/**

| State             | Crop of 2004 |                |            | Crop of 2005 |                |            |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
|                   | Production   | Total Stocks   | Percent of | Production   | Total Stocks   | Percent of |
|                   | 1,000 Cwt.   | May 1, 2005 2/ | Production | 1,000 Cwt.   | May 1, 2006 2/ | Production |
|                   |              | Percent        |            |              | Percent        |            |
| California        | 3,648        | 500            | 14         | 3,240        | 400            | 12         |
| Colorado          | 23,791       | 6,000          | 25         | 22,292       | 4,300          | 19         |
| Idaho             | 131,970      | 38,500         | 29         | 116,975      | 30,000         | 26         |
| Maine             | 19,065       | 5,000          | 26         | 15,736       | 4,600          | 29         |
| Michigan          | 13,650       | 900            | 7          | 13,920       | 900            | 6          |
| Minnesota         | 18,920       | 5,100          | 27         | 17,630       | 2,700          | 15         |
| Montana           | 3,551        | 500            | 14         | 3,434        | ---            | ---        |
| Nebraska          | 9,288        | ---            | ---        | 8,245        | 1,200          | 15         |
| New York          | 5,184        | ---            | ---        | 5,226        | ---            | ---        |
| North Dakota      | 26,765       | 7,200          | 27         | 20,500       | 2,800          | 14         |
| Ohio 3/           | 1,080        | ---            | ---        | ---          | ---            | ---        |
| Oregon            | 19,775       | 3,900          | 20         | 22,023       | 5,000          | 23         |
| Pennsylvania 3/   | 2,640        | ---            | ---        | ---          | ---            | ---        |
| Washington        | 93,810       | 15,500         | 17         | 95,480       | 17,000         | 18         |
| Wisconsin         | 30,450       | 3,800          | 12         | 27,880       | 3,700          | 13         |
| Other States      | ---          | 1,650          | ---        | ---          | 350            | ---        |
| 15-STATE TOTAL 4/ | 403,587      | 88,550         | 22         | 372,581      | 72,950         | 20         |

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2006 potatoes. Crop seed usage for 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.

2/ Missing stocks are combined into "Other States."

3/ Stock estimates discontinued for the 2005 crop.

4/ Totals for the 2005 crop were from 13 States.

**HAY STOCKS ON FARMS**

Stocks of hay on California farms as of May 1, 2006 totaled 180 thousand tons. This is 12 percent of the December 1 stocks and was 16 percent below May 1, 2005.

United States May 1 hay stocks totaled 21.3 million tons of hay on farms. This was 20 percent of the December 1 stocks and 23 percent below May 1 of the previous year.

**HAY STOCKS ON FARMS**

| State         | December 1 |         |         | May 1  |        |        |
|---------------|------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
|               | 2003       | 2004    | 2005    | 2004   | 2005   | 2006   |
|               | 1,000 Tons |         |         |        |        |        |
| California    | 2,086      | 1,770   | 1,798   | 306    | 215    | 180    |
| Arizona       | 280        | 250     | 350     | 55     | 35     | 40     |
| Nevada        | 857        | 741     | 788     | 121    | 80     | 209    |
| Oregon        | 2,357      | 2,366   | 1,790   | 371    | 362    | 210    |
| Utah          | 1,495      | 1,383   | 1,355   | 279    | 300    | 262    |
| UNITED STATES | 111,027    | 114,516 | 105,056 | 25,947 | 27,758 | 21,315 |

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